

REVIEWS OF BOOKS

EARLY MAN

Smith, Professor G. Elliot, M.D., F.R.S., and Others. *Early Man: His Origin, Development and Culture.* London, 1931. Ernest Benn. Pp. xii+176. Price 8s. 6d.

THE six lectures included in this volume serve a useful purpose by summarizing in convenient form the present state of knowledge, each in relation to some special aspect of the problem of early man. The lectures were delivered under the auspices of the Royal Anthropological Institute in the winter session 1929-1930; but both Professor Elliot Smith, who deals with the origin of man, and Professor J. L. Myres on "The Origin and Early Use of Metals," have incorporated additional matter, while the book was being prepared for press. The former was enabled by the later discoveries of additional relics of Peking man to add his conclusions on the relations of Homo Sinensis to Pithecanthropus and Piltown man and to indicate the direction in which this latest addition to prehistoric types points in reference to the question of man's earliest progenitor.

The two other lectures which deal with man's physical characters are of considerable interest to students of eugenics. Sir Arthur Keith in "The Evolution of Races, Past and Present" dwells upon the importance of race as a factor in human progress and puts forward the views on the relation of race and nationality which he develops further, with a practical application, in his little book *Ethnos* (where he suggests a task for the eugenicist of no little magnitude). In the lecture which follows, Professor Parsons, in analyzing the racial factors in the composition of the British population, brings forward evidence of a remarkable development in a certain section of the people of the present day in comparison with past types, which may have a considerable significance. He finds that the

height of head of members of the staff of University College, London, shows a very considerable increase as against that of eighteenth-century Londoners. The three remaining lectures deal with the culture of early man: Mr. Miles C. Burkitt on "More Primitive Art," Mr. Harold Peake on "The Beginnings of Agriculture," and Professor J. L. Myres on "The Origin and Early Use of Metals." The volume is well illustrated with plates and figures in the text.

E. N. FALLAIZE.

EUGENICS

Hogben, Professor Lancelot, M.A., D.Sc. *Genetic Principles in Medicine and Social Science.* London, 1931. Williams and Norgate. Pp. 230. Price 15s.

THIS book is the speedy first fruits of Professor Hogben's appointment as Professor of Social Biology in the London School of Economics. It is an important book, which will enhance its author's already high reputation as one of the most gifted of the younger generation of biologists, with a catholic interest both within and without the field of his science. And it is throughout of the greatest interest to eugenists.

The preface defines the scope of the book, which is not to provide an exhaustive treatise, but to indicate what methods are needed to apply the concepts of modern genetics to the difficult material of human heredity, and to sum up what kind of conclusions are, in the author's opinion, legitimate in the present state of knowledge. In the first chapter he comes to the root of the matter by a searching analysis of the problem of twins. He uses twin resemblance to demonstrate to the doctrinaire environmentalist the moulding power of genetic constitution; and then proceeds to turn round and administer a rap on the knuckles to the over-enthusiastic believer in heredity, pointing out that, even in regard to uni-